

# In the News

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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## Message from the Mayor

We had quite a lot of snow this month. In fact, the President's Day Weekend storm was the fifth largest snowstorm in District of Columbia history—and the most snow our city has seen since the blizzard of 1996. The official amount measured at Washington Reagan National Airport was 16.7 inches—more than 10 inches shy of our all-time record of 28 inches in 1922.

I want to thank our hardworking residents who heeded my call during the storm to help shovel our schools, neighborhood walkways, and storm drains. Our city workers, who did a tremendous job, could not have performed their duties without the invaluable help of these volunteers.

In partnership with the District's Department of Health, the DC Commission on National and Community Service coordinated more than 15 volunteers to drive senior citizens, and others needing medical care, to doctors and hospitals. One volunteer transported a disabled father from the Ronald McDonald House to Georgetown Hospital to visit his son in intensive care.

The commission also coordinated the delivery of 600 shovels to schools for use by volunteers and the community. Teams of hundreds of volunteers descended on 30 schools, including West Elementary School, Dunbar Senior High, and H. D. Cooke Elementary School. With their help, we were able to return our students to school on Friday, February 21—earlier than both Montgomery and Prince George's counties.

Two teams of AmeriCorps and City Year volunteers shoveled snow at the homes of 40 senior citizens in our city. The groups also shoveled snow for the Bundy Center and for the DC Central Kitchen.

Our city's plow operators also deserve congratulations on a job well done. They worked 12-hour shifts through driving snow and cold temperatures. Everyone in our District Emergency Management Agency (DCEMA), District Department of Transportation (DDOT), and our Department of Public Works (DPW) worked tirelessly to make sure our city's streets and schools were cleared as quickly and as safely as possible. They did a fine job and deserve our heartiest thanks.

On a similar note, we have a series of community meetings coming up that focus on emergency preparedness. This means preparedness for any kind of emergency—snow, floods, or even a terrorist event. The meetings will address residents' immediate concerns regarding potential terrorist attacks and provide information on how people can volunteer through the District's Citizen Corps. Residents will also be able to provide input on their neighborhood emergency management plans.

For a complete list of dates, times, and locations of the emergency preparedness meetings, visit the DC government website at [www.dc.gov](http://www.dc.gov), or call (202) 442-8150.

## Message from the Youth Mayor

Greetings District residents and employees, my name is Michael Clark, and I am the Youth Mayor of the District of Columbia. As the Youth Mayor, I represent the concerns and ideas of the young people of this city, and I see this position as a way to reach out to all young residents to ensure that their voices are heard.

As we are all dig out of this massive snowstorm, please remember to check in on your neighbors who may be ill or elderly and see if they have their medications, food, and other necessities.

Every two weeks, I will be updating you on what's new and telling you how to get involved in your community and positively affect a young person's life.



## AGENCY WEBSITES

[Office of Tax and Revenue](#)

[Department of Parks and Recreation](#)

[Department of Employment Services](#)

[Metropolitan Police Department](#)

[Office of Boards and Commissions](#)

[Commission on the Arts and Humanities](#)

# Community Profiles

## Amy Hendrick

Amy Hendrick has been empowering young people in Barry Farms, one of the city's most underserved neighborhoods, since her sophomore year at American University. In 1999, she helped organize a community outreach program for youths in the Barry Farms neighborhood, located in Ward 8. The educational hip-hop summer camp has since grown into a non-profit organization that mobilizes up to 100 college-age volunteers and includes five different programs.

"I can't ever imagine not having the kids in my life," Amy said.

The non-profit organization Amy co-founded, Facilitating Leadership in Youth (FLY), works with 40 youths from the Barry Farms Housing Community in southeast Washington. FLY is committed to encouraging leadership development and personal growth for youths until they graduate from high school.

All of FLY's programs are operated for youths, by youths. Young people raise funds and develop and manage the programs. FLY provides one-on-one after-school tutoring, educational advocacy, weekend excursions, anger management through hip-hop dance, and a five-week, free, educational and recreational summer camp for 40 families. "Amy is an extraordinary leader and a selfless advocate for the youths with whom she works," said Karyn Cassella, Director of American University's Community Service Center.

For more information about FLY, visit [www.flyyouth.org](http://www.flyyouth.org).



Amy Hendrick

## Davina Brimmer

While every student at Gallaudet University is required to complete a specific number of community service hours, Davina Brimmer, a junior who is majoring in elementary education, has far surpassed the 60-hour requirement.

"I like to make people realize that deaf people can help those in need," Davina said. "I love to give back to the community because the community has given me so much to me."

Recently, Davina helped organize a 30-Hour Famine to raise thousands of dollars for World Vision. The student participants, who stopped eating for 30 hours, raised money through fundraising events and volunteered for community service projects. All funds raised will be sent to World Vision, which will send the money to starving children around the world. More than one million young people participate each year in World Vision's 30-Hour Famine.

Davina was first introduced to the project while she was attending the Indiana School for the Deaf. During her sophomore year at Gallaudet, she met another student who had similar interests. Together, they brought the idea of the fundraiser to Robert Traina, coordinator of Community Service Programs, and started to recruit others on campus.

In 2002, 34 Gallaudet students participated in the project, which raised \$3,200 for World Vision to help a young girl named Vilma in Peru. This year, the money raised will again be sent to Vilma through World Vision. Next year, Davina plans to direct the 30-Hour Famine and hopes to send the money to a child who is hearing impaired.

Service has always been a part of Davina's life, and she continues to serve the homeless and lead fundraising activities. She is a group leader in the Community Service Program and supervises freshman during weekend events.

Amy Hendrick and Davina Brimmer are the January and February youth winners of the Mayor's Community Service Award, sponsored by the DC Commission on National and Community Service. If you would like to nominate a youth or an adult for the monthly award, visit [www.cnscs.dc.gov](http://www.cnscs.dc.gov) for nomination information, or call (202) 727-9461.



Davina Brimmer



LINK TO OTHER  
WEBSITES

[DC Agenda](#)

[Hands on DC](#)

[DC Convention  
and Tourism](#)

[DC Public Library](#)

## Well-Attended Education Hearing Proves Useful

On February 14, I held my annual education budget hearing. During the hearing, I listened to valuable and often impassioned testimony from citizens and education leaders about the state of our city's public schools.

The hearing gave community members an opportunity to express their views on issues they believe are most critical to the effective delivery of public education in the District. The hearing also provided an opportunity for me to hear directly from citizens. This will help me measure my own priorities against those of the citizenry and elevate them to a citywide level.

Before we began the hearing, I took a moment to celebrate some of the accomplishments of our teachers, administrators, and students in the District of Columbia Public School System. While there are dozens of individuals in our public schools who are doing great things every day, I singled out a few:

- **Sabrina Snell**  
Sabrina is a senior at School Without Walls. She has distinguished herself by becoming a finalist in the prestigious national science competition—the Intel Science Talent Search. This is the first time since 1970 that a DC public school student has achieved this honor. She will compete against finalists from 14 states for the top award—a \$100,000 scholarship.
- **Wesley Hoover**  
Wesley is a music teacher who received the first ever Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation Award for his work at Shaw Junior High. Wesley, along with five other urban music teachers nationwide, was recently honored at Carnegie Hall.
- **Patricia Tucker**  
Patricia is the principal at Benjamin Banneker Academic High School. She was named the 2002 MetLife/National Association of Secondary School Principals High School Principal of the Year for the District of Columbia.

Education has been and remains one of my major priorities. I have worked with Councilmember Kevin Chavous to increase school funding, reversing a trend of disinvestments in public education. As I said in my inaugural address last month, my commitment to education has not wavered.

We are, however, facing difficult economic times—times that will force us to reexamine how we can most effectively allocate our resources. I do not control the schools, but I will continue to have high expectations of the Board of Education, DCPS, and the chartering authorities to adequately prepare our youth for the future. I want to partner with the city's education leaders to make sure that every child enters third grade proficient in reading and begins seventh grade able to excel in math.

For the next four years, I intend to focus on the following:

- **Teacher Quality** – so that every child, has an excellent teacher in every classroom. Teachers are important — we must demand excellence from them, but we must also provide the appropriate supports for their work. I believe we can attract and retain excellent teachers by offering competitive salaries, and I'm proud of the increase in salary we've provided over the past four years.
- **Wrap-Around Services** - so that children have the support they need to achieve academically, especially those students in low-performing schools. We have already begun to deploy mental health and health resources in some of our transformation schools. And, we are currently working in collaboration with DCPS to better coordinate social service delivery so that it can support educational goals.
- **Accountability** – holding our education leaders accountable for preparing our children to meet and exceed rigorous standards. I am committed to working closely with the Board of Education and the Public Charter School Board to establish clear expectations of accountability for our teachers and administrators, so that the path to excellence in the classroom is well marked.



## Mayor's Services Liaison Office Opens at Family Court

On February 20, I was pleased to announce the official opening of the Mayor's Services Liaison Office within the new Family Court at the DC Superior Court. Staff members at this novel and important office will respond to inquiries and requests for information, consult with caseworkers to access available services, and facilitate inter-agency coordination.

The new office will enhance the level of services provided to families and children whose cases are before the Family Court. It will be a huge help to the children and families of our city—namely the ones who need our help most. With the support and leadership of Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, this office is a collaborative effort of the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Children, Youth, Families and Elders and the Family Court.

Our primary mission is to support social workers and caseworkers. We can help them identify and access the broad spectrum of social services and resources across District agencies and in the community. Also, we can coordinate the delivery of services to citizens among many agencies. This means better service for citizens in need.

It's really a team effort. Just look at all the agencies helping to make this happen:

- DC Child and Family Services Agency
- DC Department of Health
- DC Department of Human Services
- DC Department of Mental Health
- DC Public Schools
- Metropolitan Police Department
- Office of Corporation Counsel

In my inauguration speech last month, I spoke about my three priorities for the near future: Education, Public Safety, and Opportunity For All. This new office blends all of those priorities, touching on education, public safety for our citizens, and expanding opportunity to citizens across the board.

## National Guard Deployment

On February 13, I joined military officials in sending off a DC Army National Guard maintenance company, which is being mobilized in support of US military operations to fight terrorism at home and abroad. More than 130 members of the 104th Maintenance Company, led by Captain Tunstall Wilson, have been activated for a period that could extend to two years.

This group, all skilled mechanics, supports combat troops and maintains equipment for soldiers. This is the first mobilization for the 104th Maintenance Company since World War II. However, members of the unit have participated in a number of training exercises and peacetime operations since that time in preparation for the possibility of once again being activated for war. I feel honored to help send off the great men and women who wear the uniform of the United States of America. These men and women demonstrate service to our nation, and they share a profound respect for each other and their country.

Sending troops into a potential combat situation is a very grave matter—a matter many of us here in the District take very seriously. As always, I pledge District government support to the families of our servicemen and women—namely through our Office of Veterans Affairs. I want to thank the unit troops and troop family members for their commitment and sacrifice. I wish all of our servicemen and women a safe journey.

## DC Makes Business Connection

Across the country, business is stagnant, with corporate leaders working to keep their companies in the black. However, in the District, business is stronger, with corporate leaders remaining positive about the climate in the District.

DC Business Connections is the Mayor's corporate outreach and business retention program, run by the DC Marketing Center. Every year, corporate relations specialists talk with approximately 1,000 District CEO's about the business environment in the District and the opportunities provided by our government. The results for 2002 are stronger than 2001—and stronger over the 3-year period since 2000.

For example, business leaders are more optimistic about the business climate in the District—from 33 percent responding "very positive" in 2000, to 55 percent in 2002. Business leaders also believe the District's business climate is stronger than it was five years ago—from 38 percent responding "much better" in 2000, to 55 percent in 2002. That's not all. According to the Association of Foreign Investors in Real Estate, the District is the number one foreign real estate investment city—both in the country and in the world.

In the District, business means more than trading stocks and making deals. Business means people staying in our hotels, eating in our restaurants, and shopping in our stores. With business leaders more optimistic about the climate, we hope even more people stay, eat, and shop in our city. For more information, visit [www.dcbiz.dc.gov/services/marcen/bizconn.shtm](http://www.dcbiz.dc.gov/services/marcen/bizconn.shtm).





## District Activities



Mayor Williams, Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, and Chief Judge Rufus King III cut ribbon opening the new Mayor's Services Liaison Office at DC Superior Court.



Mayor Williams, CFO Gandhi, DC Council Chairman Cropp, and Councilmembers Fenty and Evans discuss District's budget pressures.



District residents in front of Reeves Building at 14th and U Streets, NW, bundle up during the big snowstorm.



Mayor Williams meets with Lord Alex Maskey, Mayor of Belfast.

## Community News

- [Grants Information Resource Center Opens at Judiciary Square](#)
- [Family Preparedness Guide](#)
- [District Updates Budget Forecast and Identifies Options for Maintaining Balance](#)

[Click here](#) to view news releases.

## Upcoming Events

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|--------------|--|
| <b>03/04</b> | <b>Public Meeting: Development Proposals for the Existing Convention Center Site</b><br>6 pm<br>Washington Convention Center<br>900 9th Street, NW<br>Rooms 20 —21 |
| <b>03/04</b> | <b>Town Meeting on Voting Rights</b><br>6:30—8:30 pm<br>Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library<br>9th and G Streets, NW<br>Lobby                                  |
| <b>03/05</b> | <b>H Street, NE, Strategic Development Plan</b><br>6:30—8:30 pm<br>Capital Children's Museum<br>3rd and H Streets, NE  |
| <b>03/06</b> | <b>Public Hearing on Final Draft Plan for Southwest Waterfront</b><br>6 pm<br>St. Augustine's Church<br>600 M Street, SW   |
| <b>03/11</b> | <b>Major League Baseball Public Meeting</b><br>7 pm<br>One Judiciary Square<br>441 4th Street, NW<br>Former Council Chambers, First Floor                          |

[Click here](#) to view the Mayor's daily schedule.

